

OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division



First Quarter
July - September 2019

South Carolina Victim Service Providers - Nil Ultra

By Director Burke Fitzpatrick

In a few days our Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants will begin administering \$43 million in grant funds throughout the State. These grant projects, approved by the South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council, will fund an extraordinary 853 full time positions. Think of that. It's an army of victim advocates, about 750, in police departments, sheriff's offices, and non-profit agencies. The remainder range from Forensic Nurse Examiners, to Domestic Violence Assistant Solicitors, and other victim service professionals.

Our collective commitment to 100% service coverage in every part of the state is one of the most important aspects of the victims of crime provider community. It puts South Carolina among the very best states (if not the best) in providing services to victims of crime.

And, it's not just all about federal and state grant funding. Consider our Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification and Statistical Services. The title is bigger than the total of three people in the department yet, "They May Be Small, But They Be Mighty".

I challenge you to find another state where all victim advocates receive standard training, uni-

versal required certification, and annual recurrent training. These attributes set us apart, and above, virtually all other states on the quality of services we can deliver to victims of crime.

I haven't yet mentioned our Department of Crime Victims Compensation. In 2018 the average claims processing time was 107 days. Today... it's 42! Amazing. Or should I say *Amazing Hard Work* by the staff in that department. By the way, we plan to push it even lower if we can.

Finally, there is our three-person Ombudsman's Office. Like the Training and Certification department, they are Small, Yet Mighty. In a presentation to Attorney General Alan Wilson last month they presented their past-year accomplishments which showed the department, somehow, handling more cases in almost every category than ever before. Plus, this is not just investigating and resolving complaints from victims of crime.

In many cases it is achieving fundamental system change on the local level so that violations of victims' rights don't reoccur.

I encourage you to read the articles in this newsletter from each department. We have an extraordinary team and we are making great progress. However, that progress can't be achieved without us joining a larger team: you. The providers on the state and local levels are the backbone of what makes victim of crime services in South Carolina *Nil Ultra* (to borrow a motto from our courts). We are proud to serve and partner with you.



DID YOU KNOW?

October: 

Attorney General's 22nd Annual Silent Witness Ceremony on October 1, 2019 at 10:00 am - South Steps - Statehouse

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

November:

Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

December:

National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

WHAT'S INSIDE:

DCVO Article by Veronica Swain Kunz Pg. 2

DCVAG Article by BJ Nelson Pg. 3

DCVAG Article by Kim Hamm Pg. 3

DCVC Compensation Recovery Article by Michael Garris Pg. 4

DCVC Community Outreach Pg. 5

DCVC End of The Year Accomplishments Pg. 6

DCVO Article by Veronica Swain Kunz continued Pg. 6

CVST Article by Kim Hamm continued Pg. 7

DCVC Training and Events Statewide Pg. 8



DID YOU KNOW?

(excerpts and information from Office for Victims of Crime website <https://ovc.gov>)

Providers/Community Leaders

Domestic Terrorism and Mass Violence

Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP)

Through AEAP, OVC supports victims and jurisdictions that have experienced incidents of terrorism or mass violence.

AEAP is designed to supplement the available resources and services of entities responding to acts of terrorism or mass violence in order to ensure that a program's resources are sufficient and/or not diverted to these victims to the detriment of other crime victims.

For further details on who is eligible to apply for this assistance, what expenses it covers, and other information about the program, visit the [AEAP website](#).



Update from the Crime Victim Ombudsman

by Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz

Crime Victim Ombudsman

The CVO Team -- Christina Toler, Lena Grant and Veronica Swain Kunz -- worked hard this summer to help victims better understand and navigate our state's criminal justice system. The more we hear about the work you all do, the more we are impressed by the dedication and service you all provide. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the LEVA and Solicitor's Conferences coming up soon!

As we head into fall, we are remembering those taken from us, particularly on **September 25th** -- National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, and on **October 1st** -- The Attorney General's Silent Witness Ceremony. Please join us at 10:00 a.m., October 1st on the south steps of the South Carolina Statehouse grounds to commemorate those killed by intimate partners, and feel free to invite any others who might find comfort from this gathering.

New Protections for Victims: Subpoenas for Advocates' Testimony

Advocates have been receiving subpoenas from defense attorneys to testify at trials and are being sequestered from courtrooms. Many solicitors are unaware that South Carolina's Rules of Criminal Procedure have been amended in January 2019 to include this protection for victims:

Issuance of Subpoena for Personal or Confidential Information About a Victim
SCRCrimP Rule 13(a)(2)

A subpoena requiring the

production of personal or confidential information about a victim may be served on a third party **only by court order**. Before entering the order and unless there are exceptional circumstances, **the court must require giving notice to the victim** so that the victim can move or quash or modify the subpoena or otherwise object.

... New paragraph (a)(2) adopts a version of the federal rule intended to provide a protective mechanism when the defense subpoenas a third party to provide personal or confidential information about a victim. *The amendment requires judicial approval before service of a subpoena seeking personal or confidential information about a victim from a third party.*

Will This Offender Kill Their Spouse?

Advocates, we rely heavily on you to collaborate with your local partners to make sure they have the information they need to identify those offenders who pose the highest risk to victims. We all probably know the checklist below by heart, **but** we should not take it for granted that those making the tough decisions about bonds, conditions of release and protection orders do! Please share this checklist widely with your law enforcement and probation officers, prosecutors and **especially judges** to help them predict most dangerous offenders and better protect victims of violence.

Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Bench Guide

Note: The **presence** of these factors can indicate **elevated risk** of serious injury or lethality. The **absence** of these factors is not, however, evidence of the absence of risk of lethality.

1. Does alleged perpetrator have access to a **firearm**, or is there a firearm in the home?
2. Has the alleged perpetrator ever used or threatened to use a **weapon** against the victim?
3. Has alleged perpetrator ever attempted to **strangle** or choke the victim?
4. Has alleged perpetrator ever **threatened to or tried to kill** the victim?
5. Has the physical violence **increased in frequency or severity** over the past year?
6. Has alleged perpetrator **forced** the victim to have **sex**?
7. Does alleged perpetrator try to **control** most or all of victim's **daily activities**?
8. Is alleged perpetrator constantly or violently **jealous**?
9. Has alleged perpetrator ever threatened or tried to commit **suicide**?

(continued on page 6)



South Carolina Coalition
Against Domestic
Violence and Sexual
Assault (SCCADVASA)
www.sccadvasa.org

Who We Are

SCCADVASA is the statewide coalition of organizations providing intervention services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and Primary Prevention programs to students and communities across the state.

Our Work

We work towards ending domestic and sexual violence in South Carolina and beyond through engaging individuals and communities in advocacy, collaboration and education. We advocate for the transformative social change that will result in a society free of violence, push for policy changes that support survivors, and provide education and technical assistance to build the capacity of our members, allied organizations and communities to provide trauma-informed and survivor-centered services.

Our Hope

Our hope is for community in which prevention work is our focus—a commitment to prevent sexual and domestic violence from occurring in the first place—where we can center our work on the building of healthy relationship practices rather than the aftermath of violence. Everyone has the right to live in a community where respect and trust form the core of relationships and fear has no place to thrive.

Grant Awards

by Deputy Director BJ Nelson

Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG)

On August 19, the Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG) mailed out award letters to 97 different victim service agencies, which collectively will administer 144 projects throughout the coming year. These awards are the result of a months-long review process by DCVAG staff culminating with a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council, which met and approved the awards on August 5th.

Currently, staff is focused on organizing and conducting a series of press conferences throughout the state. These press conferences are a great way to publicize the work that subrecipient agencies do throughout the year as well as to highlight the story of individual survivors. Press conferences were held in Greenville, West Columbia, Rock Hill, Charleston, and Florence.

In the short term, staff will be

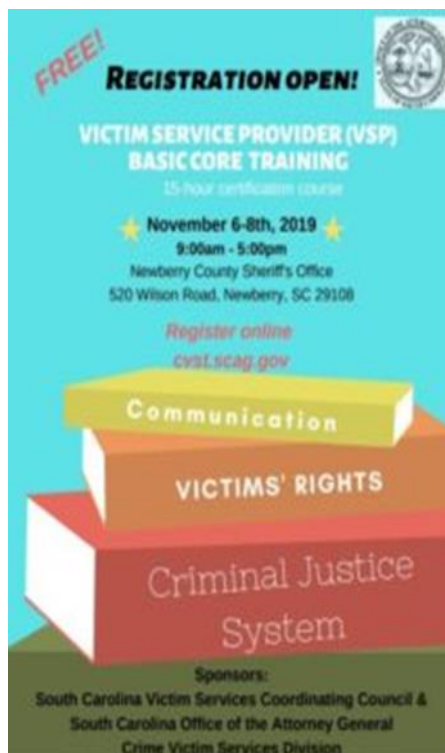
turning their attention to fully implementing the newly awarded grants, which will all become effective on October 1, and working one on one with projects to ensure their success.



Department Updates - Training and Website

by Deputy Director Kim Hamm

Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST)



Victim Service Provider (VSP) Basic Core Training

Cost: Free
November 6-8, 2019
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Newberry County
Sheriff's Office

520 Wilson Road, Newberry, SC
29108

[Click Here To Register](#)

- Any new Victim Service Provider must obtain the 15-hour VSP Basic core training in order to become certified within one year of employment.
- **This 15-hour Basic Core Training Course meets the CVST certification requirements and standards.

- This training can also count toward continuing education requirements for certified VSPs.
- This training is sponsored by the South Carolina Victim Services Coordinating Council and the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General Crime Victim Services Division

(continued on page 7)



Breast Cancer Awareness

(<https://www.cdc.gov>)

Other than skin cancer, [breast cancer](#) is the most common cancer among American women. Getting [mammograms](#) regularly can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends that **if you are 50 to 74 years old, be sure to have a screening mammogram every two years.** If you are 40 to 49 years old, talk to your doctor about when to start and how often to get a screening mammogram.

Fast Facts About Breast Cancer

Each year in the United States, more than 240,000 women get breast cancer and more than 40,000 women die from the disease. [See detailed statistics.](#)

- Men also get breast cancer, but it is not very common. Less than 1% of breast cancers occur in men.
- Most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older, but breast cancer also affects [younger women](#).
- About 10% of all new cases of breast cancer in the United States are found in women younger than 45 years of age.

The DCVC Compensation Recovery Team: “Helping to Secure Funding for Future Victims” by Compensation Recovery Manager Michael Garris Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

The Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) has always done its best to provide financial assistance to South Carolina crime victims. In the last fiscal year alone, DCVC provided assistance to over 9,113 crime victims by providing a total of \$9,265,288.75 for crime related costs including: medical expenses, counseling fees, loss wages, sexual assault forensic costs, and funeral/burial expenses. Each year the need for DCVC services steadily increases despite the fact that the availability of funding is decreasing. DCVC is the payer of last resort for all eligible crime victims as cited in South Carolina Code of Laws Section 16-3-1190. In those cases where there is no other source, eligible victims and their families may receive reimbursement for losses provided by DCVC.

For various reasons, many offenders are not held responsible for paying restitution to the victim they harmed. Consequently, the financial burden for crime related expenses is usually left to be paid by the victim, their family and/or compensation agencies such as DCVC. As a result, the cost of continuing to provide victim assistance funding continues to be a major concern for DCVC. In order to help minimize this financial impact, DCVC has to enforce its position as payer of last resort.

DCVC recovers and saves funding through the efforts of the Compensation Recovery Department (CRD) managed by Michael Garris. The CRD is composed of Compensation Recovery Coordinators (CRCs); Terri Stephens, David Addison and Armando Pons. They are supported by the help of Administrative Coordinator, Cindy Popenhagen. Over the past fifteen years, the CRD has saved and recovered compensation funding by applying best practices to hold offenders accountable while imposing the least impact on the victim. The CRCs are responsible for reviewing, monitoring and conducting follow-up on all claims where restitution may be ordered. They also investigate each claim for civil litigation and potential subrogation related issues. The idea is that if DCVC has already paid the bills of the victim, DCVC should recover the monies from any other source that may contribute to that victim's loss.

Collectively, the CRC partners with victim advocates and other judicial representatives in each circuit to ensure restitution is requested during the judicial process. In an effort to continue placing the financial responsibility back on the offender, the CRCs conduct compensation recovery trainings statewide so we can collaborate with our criminal justice partners to recover

restitution from offenders. As a result of the combined efforts with our partners statewide, DCVC was able to save and recover nearly \$1.4 million in FY19 for future victims.

Restitution & Subrogation



DCVC
Office of the
Attorney General



ABOUT THE NATIONAL MASS VIOLENCE AND VICTIMIZATION RESOURCE CENTER

The National Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center serves as the source for best evidence to achieve a social understanding of mass violence upon which civic leaders, mental health professionals, journalists, policy makers, and victim assistance professionals can rely.

OUR VISION

To provide communities access to evidence-based information and resources needed to effectively prepare for and respond to mass violence incidents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This National Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center website is funded through a grant (cooperative agreement number 2017-MU-GX-K114) to the Medical University of South Carolina from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Neither the U.S. Department of Justice nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse, this website (including, without limitation, its content, technical infrastructure, and policies, and any services or tools provided).

For additional information, go to <http://www.nmvvrc.org>

Community Outreach Services

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

Law Enforcement and Victim Advocate Outreach Initiative

DCVC collaborated with 4 of 9 municipalities and county law enforcement agencies within the Third Judicial Circuit to conduct trainings with law enforcement and victim advocates.

Outlined below is a breakdown of how many agencies and participants were trained in the **Third Judicial Circuit:**

- Agencies Coordinated-**10**
- Trainings Conducted-**9**
- Law Enforcement Officers Trained-**75**
- Victim Advocates Trained-**7**
- Total number of Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates Trained-**82**

Outlined below is a breakdown of how many agencies and participants were trained in the **Second Judicial Circuit:**

- Agencies Coordinated-**13**
- Trainings Conducted -**11**
- Law Enforcement Officers Trained-**84**
- Victim Advocates Trained-**10**
- Total number of Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates Trained-**94**

Outlined below is a breakdown of how many agencies and participants were trained in both the Second and Third Judicial Circuits:

- Agencies Coordinated-**23**
- Trainings Conducted-**20**
- Law Enforcement Officers Trained-**159**
- Victim Advocates Trained-**17**
- Total number of Law Enforcement Officers and Victim Advocates Trained-**176**

The overall training summary surveys indicated that the outreach initiative was beneficial for law enforcement officers and victim advocates. The trainings were successful!

The majority of the participants felt the training educated them on victim issues, and they could apply what they learned on the job.

Below are a few comments regarding what participants liked most about the training:

- Training was informative
- Videos were helpful; showing real life examples and the importance of the first responder
- Training provided a better perspective of dealing with victims

DCVC will continue to assess the outreach Law Enforcement and Victim Advocate outreach initiative to ensure that it meets not only the needs of DCVC but the needs of law enforcement officers and victim advocates statewide.

Georgetown County Victim Service Fair

On June 26, 2019, DCVC had an initial meeting with the Georgetown Victim Services group to discuss sponsoring the 2nd Annual Victim Service Fair in Georgetown, SC.

The meeting was very productive and was attended by advocates from law enforcement and the solicitor's office.

As a result of the meeting in June, a second meeting was held on September 12, 2019. This meeting consisted of more agencies to include but not limited to MADD, SC Highway Patrol Victim Advocate and local non-profit agencies. The meeting was productive and plans are under way for a Spring event in May 2020!

Stay tuned for additional information.





Leaving a Relationship

<https://www.thehotline.org>

Because violence could escalate when someone tries to leave, here are some things to keep in mind before you leave:

- Keep any evidence of physical abuse, such as pictures of injuries.
- Keep a journal of all violent incidences, noting dates, events and threats made, if possible. Keep your journal in a safe place.
- Know where you can go to get help. Tell someone what is happening to you.
- If you are injured, go to a doctor or an emergency room and report what happened to you. Ask that they document your visit.
- Plan with your children and identify a safe place for them, like a room with a lock or a friend's house where they can go for help. Reassure them that their job is to stay safe, not to protect you.
- Contact your local shelter and find out about laws and other resources available to you before you have to use them during a crisis. WomensLaw.org has state by state legal information.

- Acquire job skills or take courses at a community college as you can.
- Try to set money aside or ask friends or family members to hold money for you.



DCVC End of The Year Accomplishments (Fiscal Year 18-19)

Department of Crime Victim Compensation

During the last fiscal year (FY18-19), please note the following regarding accomplishments of the agency for the past fiscal year regarding our outreach efforts across the state.

DCVC Training

- Total Training events conducted-**51**
- Total Participants trained-**967**

Publication Items Distributed

- Total Publication Items Distributed-**18,737**

Career/Health Fair Displays

- Career/Health Fair Display Booths Set ups-**9**

Solicitor's Office Site Visits

- Site Visits Performed-**2**

DCVC Outreach Technical Assistance Provided- **132 times statewide**

Display Booth Participants (visitors to the booth)-432

- Program Information Information/Public Awareness-**376**
- Those that identified themselves as crime victims-**7**
- DCVC Made a Referral-**7**
- Third Party Information and Referral: **12**
- Claim Follow up: **0**
- DCVC Experience: **3**
- Training Requested: **24**
- Display Requested: **3**

DCVC Outreach Technical Assistance Provided: **132 times statewide**

Claims Received

- Total Compensation and Sexual Assault Claims Received-**9,113**

Incoming Phone Calls (to agency receptionist)

- Total incoming phone calls to agency receptionist-**11,385**

Walk-in Crime Victims

- Total walk-in crime victims-**93**

Outgoing Mail

- Total outgoing agency mail-**20,597 pieces**

Number of HIV.nPEP Claims Received

- Adults-**29**
- Adolescent/Pediatric-**13**

DCVC Auditing Section

- Total Audits Conducted-**7**
- Total Inquiries-**95**
- Total Budgets-Desk Audits-**333**
- Total Victim Funds Recouped Statewide-**\$72,407.96**

Update from the Crime Victim Ombudsman cont.

by Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz

(continued from page 2)

10. Does the **victim believe** that the alleged perpetrator will re-assault or attempt to kill the victim? A "no" answer does not indicate a low level of risk, but a "yes" answer is very significant
11. Are there any pending or prior Orders for Protection, criminal or civil cases involving this alleged perpetrator?

Please call us if we can be of service to you!

Crime Victim Ombudsman
Veronica Swain Kunz
VKunz@SCAG.gov
803.734.0357





While most people may associate December with the holidays, for the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration it means Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month. Actually, the two do go hand-in-hand, as many people celebrate at holiday festivities with alcoholic drinks, and many people travel by car to visit family this time of year. Before you hit the road, know that police use this month to crack down on drunk and drugged drivers.

[Drinking and Driving](#)

Nothing will put a damper on your holiday season faster than a DUI or having your license revoked. DUI's can be very costly, and many budgets are already stretched tight for holiday gift buying. This is also a busy time of year for people between parties and family gatherings, and the lack of a driver's license can be a major inconvenience.

[Drugged Driving](#)

Drugged driving does not refer to someone slipping something in your drink, but rather driving under the influence of drugs. Even prescribed drugs or legally prescribed medicinal marijuana can impair your ability to drive. It is even more dangerous to combine any type of drug with alcohol. If you have any prescriptions, be sure to read all side effects and warnings before drinking or driving. Some drugs may cause drowsiness on their own and will advise against operating heavy machinery or combining with alcohol. It is very important to heed these warnings.

Celebrate Safely and Arrive Alive

Department Updates cont.

by Deputy Director Kim Hamm

Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST)

(continued from page 3)

Please note that our former website, ovsec.sc.gov has now been retired and moved out to pasture. You can now access all of the Department's forms and materials on our new website, cvst.scag.gov.

Please bookmark: cvst.scag.gov

The screenshot shows the official website of Alan Wilson, South Carolina Attorney General. The header features the state seal and the text "ALAN WILSON SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main navigation menu includes links for HOME, OPINIONS, IMPORTANT LINKS, CRIME VICTIM SERVICES, MEDIA CENTER, and CONTACT. The central content area is titled "DEPARTMENT OF CRIME VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING, PROVIDER CERTIFICATION & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS (CVST)". Below this title, there is a section for "Frequently Used Forms" which includes links for "Victim Service Provider (VSP) Application*", "Accreditation Application", and "Non-Accredited Certification Request". Each link is accompanied by a brief description of the form's purpose. To the right of the main content, there is a sidebar with a list of links related to CVST, such as "About CVST", "Contact CVST", "CVST Approved Trainings", "CVST Accreditation Standards", "CVST FAQs", "CVST Training Requirements", and "CVST Forms". At the bottom right, there is a "LATEST NEWS" section with a link to "VIEW ALL" and a news item dated Sep 9, 2019, titled "Attorney General Wilson one of 50 Attorneys General in Google multistate bipartisan antitrust investigation".



**Contact Information
for Publisher/Editor:**

Ethel Douglas Ford, CPM
Assistant Deputy Director
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803.734.1704
Fax: 803.734.1708
eford@scag.gov
www.sova.sc.gov



DCVC Training and Events Statewide

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

The following is a list of upcoming DCVC training events.

Upcoming Training and Events:

- October 8, 2019 - DCVC training for SC Department of Education Fall Regional Workshops in Florence, SC-Francis Marion University
- October 17, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>
- October 21, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for Julie Valentine in Greenville, SC
- November 6-8, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for Victim Service Coordinating Council (VSCC) and the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division in Newberry, SC. For additional information, contact Kim Hamm at 803-734-0794
- December 10, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>

DCVC is in the process of coordinating future training events across the state!
Stay tuned!



Fall Is Here!

